

Walla Walla – Spokane VAMC

Joint Psychology Internship Training Program



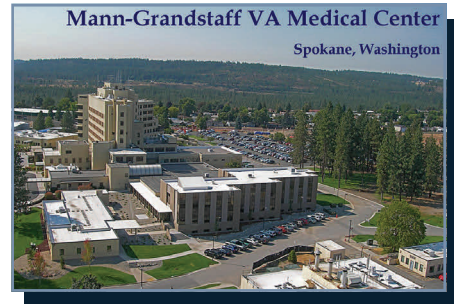
Walla Walla VA Medical Center

*77 Wainwright Drive
Walla Walla, WA 99362
www.wallawalla.va.gov*



Spokane VA Medical Center

*4815 N. Assembly Street
Spokane, WA 99205
www.spokane.va.gov*



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Psychology Internship Program

Walla Walla VA Medical Center

77 Wainwright Drive
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.525.5200 ■ 888.687.8863
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Spokane VA Medical Center

4815 N. Assembly Street
Spokane, WA 99205
509.434.7014 ■ 800.325.7940
<http://www.spokane.va.gov/>

MATCH Number: 221511
Applications Due: November 15

Dear Prospective Intern,

The Training Committee at the Walla Walla-Spokane Doctoral Psychology Internship is pleased that you are interested in our program. We hope that the enclosed materials will provide you with more information regarding the uniqueness of our program.

"If you've seen one VA, you've seen one VA." This statement, echoed throughout the VA system, speaks to the uniqueness of each VA medical center. The Walla Walla-Spokane Joint Internship provides interns with the opportunity to experience two VA Medical Centers during the training year. The Walla Walla-Spokane Psychology Internship is an APA accredited program that incorporates a unique partnership between two VA Medical Centers located three hours apart in Eastern Washington. The program offers interns six months of experience at each site in order to maximize the diversity of training opportunities offered, and also to expose them to both the similarities and differences of two different VA settings. Interns will be trained in at least two different evidence-based practices (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, Interpersonal Therapy for Depression), and minor rotations include the Veterans Trauma Recovery Program, Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Neuropsychology, the Residential Rehabilitation Unit, Health Behavior Change, and Home-Based Primary Care. There are opportunities to work with supervisors who are specialists in a variety of theoretical orientations including psychodynamic, cognitive behavioral, and client centered, in addition to those trained in the above-mentioned EBP's.

Past interns have consistently provided feedback that they enjoyed the ability to work within so many different interdisciplinary teams. They valued the breadth of theoretical orientations they were exposed to and felt their relationships with supervisors were collegial and supportive.

In addition to the training opportunities, Eastern Washington is a great place to live. Both Spokane and Walla Walla offer an abundance of outdoor activities such as skiing, fishing, hiking, boating, rafting and golfing. In addition, they are both bike friendly communities. Located just a few short hours' drive to more major metropolitan areas (Seattle, Portland, Boise), Spokane and Walla Walla boast a quieter way of life with less traffic and less rain! Spokane is the larger of the two communities offering a greater selection of amenities. It is the hub for a large surrounding area and boasts excellent medical facilities as well as first rate dining, entertainment, and shopping. Despite its small size, Walla Walla has a wide range of things to offer. Voted the friendliest small town in America (2011), Walla Walla's historic downtown is always busy with activity. As home of a nationally recognized liberal arts college, there are a wide range of cultural, artistic, and scholarly events offered to the community. Walla Walla is also home to over 100 wineries producing world class wine.

We hope that you find the following pages informative and helpful as you begin the decision process of choosing an internship. We wish you all the best in your internship application process.

Sincerely,

The Training Committee

Accreditation Status

The Joint Doctoral Psychology Internship at the Walla Walla VAMC and Spokane VAMC was established in 2012 and became fully accredited by the American Psychological Association in 2015. The next APA site visit will occur in 2022. Questions related to the program's accreditation status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington DC 2002
Phone: (202) 336-5979 E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Web: <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation>

Application & Selection Process

VA policy requires internship funding to be provided only to students who are U.S. citizens and enrolled in APA-accredited clinical or counseling psychology doctoral programs. In addition, we require completion of the "Academic Program's Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness" form to verify applicants' readiness and recommendation for internship by their Clinical Training Director. To be considered for interview or ranking, applicants are required to have at least 1000 hours of practicum experience with a minimum of 500 hours of direct service. Applicants with training backgrounds in adult clinical assessment and experience or interest in rural programming will be given preference. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring a range of diversity among our training classes with respect to Veteran status. All things being equal, consideration is given to applicants representing elements of diversity, including, but not limited to, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, social economic status, and military service.

Application Process

To apply, submit the following materials electronically through the on-line APPIC Application for Psychology Internships:

1. APPIC Application for Psychology Internship
2. Curriculum vita
3. Three letters of recommendation.

Important Eligibility Requirements for All Internship Applicants

1. *U.S. citizenship:* VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns and fellows must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training. A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee. Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program. Exceptions can be granted only by the US Office of Personnel Management; exceptions are very rarely granted.
2. *Fingerprinting/Background Checks:* Interns and Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks: Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.

3. *Drug Screenings:* VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees. Interns and Fellows are not required to be tested prior to beginning work, but once on staff they are subject to random selection for testing as are other employees.

Internship applicants must also meet these criteria to be considered for any VA Psychology Internship Program:

1. Doctoral student in good standing at an APA-accredited graduate program in Clinical or Counseling psychology.
2. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA criteria for re-specialization training in Clinical or Counseling Psychology are also eligible. Approved for internship status by graduate program training director.

Match Number: 221511

Important Deadlines

Application Deadline: November 15
Interview Notification: December 15
Interviews: December - January

Candidate Interviews and Selection

The Training Committee will review all applications based on the following criteria:

1. Applicant's interest and experience as it relates to the VHA, facility, and training program mission.
2. Clinical competency.
3. Multi-cultural competency, and interest in rural populations.
4. Academic, research, and professional achievements.

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by e-mail to schedule a standardized 60-minute telephone interview. Interviews will include time for applicants to ask questions and learn more about the training opportunities available and supervision provided by this program. The primary purpose of the interview is to assess the candidate's professional experiences, areas of training in which the candidate would like further development, and the match between the program and the candidate's professional interests. Candidates are encouraged to visit one or both VAMCs and can arrange this by contacting the internship Co-Directors.

Psychology Training

The Walla Walla-Spokane Psychology Internship is a recently awarded program offering four internship positions in eastern Washington state. The internship is a 52-week, full-time program with two major six month rotations located at the Spokane VAMC and the Walla Walla VAMC. Interns will complete a six-month rotation at either the Spokane VAMC in Spokane, Washington or at the Walla Walla VAMC in Walla Walla, WA, followed by a second six-month rotation at the other site. The clinical experiences at both VA Medical Centers will emphasize diversity and will promote development of skills for serving in urban, rural, and highly rural settings. The program offers dynamic and extensive clinical experience with opportunities to develop minor rotations (1 day per week) in specialty clinics such as the Residential Recovery Treatment Program (RRTP), Veterans Trauma Recovery Program (VTRP), Neuropsychology, Primary Care Mental Health

Integration, Health Behavior Change, and Home-Based Primary Care. Within the General Behavioral Health rotation there is opportunity to gain experience in health psychology, working with a seriously mentally ill population, and on a small inpatient psychiatric ward. This internship program has 16 licensed psychologists representing a broad range of theoretical orientations and certification in Evidence-Based Psychotherapy (EBP), including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, Interpersonal Therapy for Depression, and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Interns will be trained in EBPs by psychologists certified in these practices.

Training Model and Program Philosophy

The mission of the Walla Walla- Spokane Internship Program is to provide comprehensive generalist training in professional psychology based on the practitioner-scholar model. Our primary goal is to develop an intern's knowledge, skills, and abilities through direct, supervised patient care and integrated educational and scholarly opportunities that will prepare them for licensure, postdoctoral residencies, and entry-level VA positions, particularly those with a rural focus. While interns will spend the majority of their time in direct patient care, the intern's training goals are of primary importance and take precedence over workload demands. Our program's emphasis on the application of current scientific knowledge to professional delivery of services is reflected in the content of training experiences, which include training in evidence-based practices, exposure to varied treatment settings, application of clinical research, and participation in didactics offered through the VA and outside agencies. Our goal is to provide each intern with a broad range of training experiences in assessment, intervention, and consultation with a wide array of patients in medical and mental health settings.

Program Structure

Interns will spend the first week of internship being oriented to the VA, the Behavioral Health service lines, and to the Psychology Internship program. Interns will meet with the Co-Training Directors and will be given a detailed overview of the program and a list of competencies required for successful completion of the internship. Each intern will also complete a self-assessment of their current interests, theoretical orientation, and experience in the field of psychology, which will help inform rotation choices and provide a baseline for gauging progress and growth over the year. Interns will have the opportunity to discuss possible minor rotation placements with each of the supervising psychologists. At the end of the week, interns will meet with the Co-Training Directors and make their respective placement choices.

Supervisors assist in selecting patients, making referrals, facilitating intern participation in multi-disciplinary case management meetings, and providing weekly individual and group supervision. Interns will obtain a minimum of four hours per week of supervision with at least two of those hours in direct face-to-face individual supervision. Interns' experiences and opportunities will follow a step-wise progression increasing in case complexity with a trajectory of increased clinical independence as their exposure, education, supervision, and ability demonstrates.

Interns will participate in a weekly Topics in Psychology Seminar, which is a two hour didactic intended for professional development in a wide variety of areas related to mental health. Interns will also participate in other pertinent clinical and educational opportunities including guest lectures, case conferences, complex multi-disciplinary case management meetings, Behavioral Health provider meetings, and psychology staff meetings. Interns will present a minimum of two formal presentations to the Behavioral Health Provider teams, one of which is focused on demonstration of knowledge and integration of cutting edge research in the clinical

assessment and/or treatment of an actual patient. The second presentation can be in an area of clinical interest, staff training, or program development.

Given the geographic distance between the two sites, interns will participate in weekly meetings during which the interns at each site (two in Walla Walla and two in Spokane) can engage in collegial discussions. These weekly meetings are meant to provide the interns with time to collaborate and discuss internship issues, concerns, challenges, and successes. There is no formal format to these meetings. In addition, each intern will serve a six month term as a training committee representative. The training committee representatives communicate intern feedback to the training committee and provide input on programmatic changes.

Interns will be evaluated quarterly throughout the internship by the Co-Training Directors and their minor rotation supervisors. In addition, intern progress is continuously reviewed over the course of the internship by the intern's clinical supervisors for completing major and minor rotations. Interns will receive direct feedback through supervision and with formal assessment of their progress quarterly. Formal evaluations include assessment of performance on both major and minor/elective rotations. Successful completion of the internship will indicate competence for continued work in professional psychology as well as the VHA system.

Interns will be asked to complete an evaluation of their internship experience, including supervision, rotations, and didactics. An exit interview will be scheduled with the interns and the Co-Training Directors. Interns will be asked to participate in an alumni program that will provide information to the internship about post-internship professional employment.

Training Experiences

Interns are required to complete the six-month major rotations within the General Behavioral Health Service located at the Spokane VAMC and the Walla Walla VAMC. Below is a list of all seven elective rotations that are currently available. Interns can select up to four placements for their minor rotations from the following list (two at Spokane, two at Walla Walla). The specific program developed by an intern will require the approval of the Co-Training Directors.

Major Rotations:

General Mental Health Clinic - Spokane VAMC: Interns will gain experience with an array of mental health disorders as a clinical team member with outpatient mental health clinics. These clinics serve urban and rural located Veterans in the Spokane area as well as Veterans from across the region referred for psychiatric treatment. Primary duties include clinical intakes, individual and group therapy, assessment, interdisciplinary treatment team planning, and patient feedback. Interns will participate in weekly multidisciplinary team meetings presenting cases and conducting treatment planning. Interns will receive training and supervision using evidence-based interventions with a broad range of psychological disorders and symptom severity, such as mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, somatoform disorders, etc. Interns may gain multicultural competence with Hispanic and Native American populations as well as Veterans from the full range of ages and service eras. When appropriate, interns will follow inpatient Veterans into the outpatient setting and vice versa to provide continuity of care.

Supervisors: Kenneth Cogswell, Ph.D., Darrelle Volwiler, Ph.D.

General Behavioral Health Service (BHS) – Walla Walla VAMC: Interns will gain experience with an array of mental health disorders as a clinical team member at the Walla Walla VAMC.

Generalist training with rural Veterans will be emphasized utilizing collaboration within multidisciplinary teams. Interns will conduct individual and group therapy, assessment, and treatment for a broad range of psychological disorders to advance their diagnostic skills, therapy skills, and treatment planning abilities. Interns will have the opportunity to receive training in several EBPs as part of this rotation (e.g. Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Interpersonal Therapy for Depression). Interns will gain multicultural competence with Hispanic and Native American populations as well diverse age and war era Veterans. Interns will participate in weekly multidisciplinary team meetings focused on treatment and systemic issues.

Supervisor: Sarah Oslund, Ph.D.

Minor Rotations:

Neuropsychology Program - Spokane VAMC: The Neuropsychology Program at the Spokane VAMC closely adheres to the recommendations of the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. Interns will gain experience with patients with a wide variety of medical and psychiatric disorders such as traumatic brain injury, cerebral vascular accident, tumor, movement disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, somatoform disorders, psychosis, and complex medical conditions. The training objectives for interns in the Neuropsychology Program are to gain knowledge of brain-behavior relationships, to establish a basic level of competence in neuropsychological practice, to reach an intermediate level of understanding in interpreting research approaches and findings, and to become aware of the emotional consequences of neuropathology and of appropriate types of intervention. Supervisors in this rotation are ABPP-CN eligible and are currently undergoing board certification.

Supervisors: Elizabeth Ziegler, Ph.D., Melissa Swanson, Ph.D.

Residential Recovery Treatment Program (RRTP) - Walla Walla VAMC: A CARF awarded program with 36 residential beds, the RRTP has 28 dedicated beds for substance abuse residential treatment and 8 beds for psychosocial residential treatment. Interns will deliver a broad range of psychological services, to include diagnostic interviewing, assessment, individual and group psychotherapy, and consultation. Psychological testing skills will focus on personality assessments to help inform the Veteran's ongoing treatment and recovery goals. Interns will participate as a member of the program's multi-disciplinary treatment team, which includes psychology, psychiatry, nursing, medicine, addictions therapy, social work, peer support and the homeless program attending team meetings and functioning as facilitators in the recovery process. Individual supervision emphasizes skill development in empirically supported addiction and trauma therapies, including Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, DBT Skills Group, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. CARF has awarded a three-year accreditation through June 2017 along with several notable commendations which specifically highlighted a commitment to Veteran specific care and enhanced sensitivity to the needs of Native American Veterans. The RRTP implements a university program model which allows the Veteran's treatment plan to be uniquely tailored each week to the Veteran's specific recovery goals.

Supervisor: Karen O'Brien, Ph.D.

Veterans Trauma Recovery Program (VTRP) - Spokane VAMC: Interns on the VTRP rotation will work with Veterans diagnosed with PTSD of all service eras in a specialized PTSD outpatient clinic. Interns will work with rural, highly rural, and urban Veterans with a wide variety of clinical presentations and traumatic experiences, particularly combat and military sexual

trauma. Primary duties will include assessment with attention to differential diagnosis, treatment planning, individual therapy, and group therapy. Interns may participate in weekly multidisciplinary team meetings presenting cases, reviewing recent literature, and conducting treatment planning. Interns will receive training and supervision in evidence-based psychotherapy for PTSD, with emphasis on Prolonged Exposure. Interns in the VTRP rotation will also conduct groups such as Symptom Management and a Unified Protocol for PTSD comorbidities. Interns will also have the opportunity to learn and practice Seeking Safety with Veterans with PTSD and co-occurring Substance Use Disorders.

Supervisors: Brandy Henson, Ph.D., Eric Krueger, Ph.D., and Patrick Metoyer, Ph.D.

Home Based Primary Care - Walla Walla VAMC: The mission of the HBPC program is to respond to the challenges of homebound Veterans by extending the services of the medical center to the Veteran's home. The program offers support and care to help increase independence and improve quality of life. Interns will work with this diverse population of Veterans who present with a wide range of ages, military service experiences, ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic status, medical illness, and mental health diagnoses. Under the supervision of the HBPC psychologist, interns will observe, assess, and improve the cognitive, family, social, emotional, and/or behavioral functioning of Veterans by means of interview, assessment, and individual and/or family counseling as indicated by the Veteran's needs and diagnoses. Interns will have the opportunity to participate in multidisciplinary team staffing to discuss treatment issues as they pertain to the care of the Veteran. Interns will also participate in interdisciplinary coordination of care including VA palliative care and hospice services as well as care at non-VA agencies.

Supervisor: Kristen Hill, Psy.D.

Health Behavior Change (Walla Walla VAMC): The Health Behavior Change program supports Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) by providing assessment and consultation for Veteran's psychosocial, self-management, and health behavior issues that affect their medical outcomes. Interns working in this program will learn, practice, and provide behavioral health psychoeducation and training to Veterans in individual (face-to-face and telephone) and group formats. Skill building in evidence-based therapies, including motivational interviewing and solution-focused approaches will be emphasized. Interns will have opportunities to develop or improve proficiencies that address adherence to medical treatment recommendations (e.g., self-management of diabetes, hypertension, heart health, etc.), tobacco cessation, sleep improvement, stress management, weight management, and pain management. If interested, committee and program development participation opportunities are available as well. Supervisor: Shauncie Skidmore, Ph.D.

Primary Care Mental Health Integration - (Spokane VAMC): This rotation will provide interns with the opportunity to experience how psychologists function when embedded directly in a primary care setting. The short-term, problem-focused approach that defines this area will be taught, as well as how to work closely with physicians, nurses, and other associated professionals to provide quick access to veterans in need of health-related interventions. Short-term interventions focusing on depression/stress management, adherence to medical advice, coping with health-related anxiety, and sleep hygiene will be taught. In addition, motivational interviewing techniques focused on helping patients change unhealthy behaviors will be emphasized.

Supervisors: Bruce Huyser, Ph.D., and Connie Raybuck, Ph.D.

Requirements for Completion

Before and during orientation week, interns' prior training experiences will be reviewed to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses to facilitate the development of a training program that best meets the specific training needs of each intern. In keeping with our generalist philosophy, interns are encouraged to address those areas in which they have had limited experience (e.g., working with severe mental illness or substance abuse, cognitive assessment with the use of neuropsychological instruments or personality testing, development in theoretical orientation).

It is expected that upon completion of the program, all interns will demonstrate competence in the following nine general domains:

1. Research
2. Ethical/Legal Standards
3. Individual and Cultural Diversity
4. Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors
5. Communication and Interpersonal Skills
6. Psychological Assessment
7. Psychological Interventions
8. Supervision
9. Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills

At the beginning of the training year, each intern will receive a copy of the standardized performance evaluation that will be used throughout the course of the internship year. The evaluation details specific competency elements within each of the domains listed above. A minimum level for each competency is expected. Each intern will receive details of expectations at the beginning of internship. Informal feedback is provided throughout the year, as well as formal quarterly evaluations with all supervisors.

Selection of minor rotations is based on the individual's interest as well as training needs. At the beginning of the internship year, each intern meets with the Co-Training Directors to develop a plan for training which includes selection of minor rotations. After the completion of the first six months, progress and needs are again evaluated and appropriate adjustments are made to minor rotation selections for the second six months. The Co-Training Directors work directly with the interns to determine what will best meet the trainees needs.

In summary, the Co-Training Directors will remain in close contact throughout the internship year and will meet formally with the interns on a quarterly basis to discuss their progress, assure understanding of progress across both VAMC sites, provide meaningful feedback, and develop training and supervision which will promote each interns ability to master the nine domains of competence. Toward this goal, both Co-Training Directors will participate in weekly group supervision sessions with all four interns.

Facilities and Training Resources

Interns will be provided with office space and computers necessary for patient care and administrative responsibilities. The Behavioral Health Services at the Spokane VAMC moved into a state of the art, 16,000-square-foot outpatient Mental Health Building on VA campus grounds in May of 2012, and each intern has their own office. Most Spokane psychologists are currently housed in this building, along with many other behavior health outpatient staff.

The Walla Walla VAMC completed construction of a new 36-bed Residential Recovery Treatment Program building in 2013, and all Behavioral Health staff moved into a new outpatient building in early 2014. Interns will have full access to the VA medical library services and VA resources for clinical work and research. We also have a comprehensive Psychology and Neuropsychology Assessment Lab, which includes a wide variety of assessment instruments, scoring programs, and statistical software. There are three staff members available for administrative support at the Spokane VAMC and two at the Walla Walla VAMC.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Salary and benefits: The internship year begins at the end of August. The internship is full time, certifying 2080 hours of supervised experiences for internship completion. Interns are allowed up to five days of authorized leave to attend educational conferences, job interviews, or dissertation meetings (this time does count toward the 2080 supervised hours). Internship stipend at the current Federal rate for Walla Walla and Spokane is \$25,580. All interns are provided opportunities to obtain subsidized health insurance. The Authorized Leave policy is consistent with other VA Psychology training programs.

Due Process: All trainees are afforded the right to due process in matters of problematic behavior and grievances. Interns will receive a copy of the due process document, and it will be reviewed during orientation. A copy of our due process policy is also available on request.

Privacy policy: We collect no personal information from you when you visit our website.

Self-Disclosure: We do not require interns to disclose personal information to their clinical supervisors except in cases where personal issues may be adversely affecting an intern's performance and such information is necessary to address these difficulties.

Training Staff

Co-Training Directors

Kenneth A. Cogswell, Ph.D. (Spokane)

Co-Training Director, Psychology Internship

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: University of Montana, Missoula, 1988

E-mail address: Kenneth.Cogswell2@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Pain Management, treatment of PTSD

VA EBP training completed: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy

Sarah Oslund, Ph.D. (Walla Walla)

Co-Training Director, Psychology Internship, PTSD Coordinator, Staff Psychologist

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: Ph.D. University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, 2009

E-mail address: Sarah.Oslund@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Psychodynamic, Interpersonal

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: PTSD/Trauma, Depression and Anxiety, Personality Dynamics, Adjustment Issues, Program development

VA EBP training completed: Interpersonal Therapy for Depression, Cognitive Processing Therapy

Walla Walla Psychology Staff

Kristen Hill, Psy.D.

Staff Psychologist-- Home-Based Primary Care

Degree: Psy.D., Loma Linda University, 2011

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

E-mail address: kristen.hill@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Existential, Interpersonal

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Geropsychology, Bereavement, Depressive and Anxiety Disorders, Adjustment Issues, Caregiver Support

Karen O'Brien, Ph.D.

PTSD/SUD Psychologist

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: Ph.D., University of North Texas, 2011

Email address: Karen.O'Brien@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Contextual behavioral science

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and other contextual behavioral therapies, mindfulness-based interventions, Military Psychology, Telehealth and technology, transdiagnostic approaches to treatment, a functional contextual approach to case conceptualization, PTSD assessment and treatment.

VA EBP training completed: Prolonged Exposure, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

Shauncie Skidmore, Ph.D.

Staff Psychologist and Health Behavior Coordinator

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: PhD, Eastern Michigan University, 2010

Email Address: Shauncie.Skidmore@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Pain, Chronic and General Medical Conditions, Compliance Issues, Sleep Disorders, Anxiety, Depression.

VA EBP training completed: CBT for Chronic Pain, CBT-Insomnia.

Spokane Psychology Staff

Brandy Henson, Ph.D.

Lead/Supervisory Psychologist, VTRP Program Manager, Local Evidence-Based

Psychotherapy Coordinator, VISN 20 PTSD Mentor.

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: Washington State University, 2007

Email address: brandy.henson2@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: PTSD, Evidence-Based Practices, Sleep/Insomnia, program development/evaluation, professional development of VA psychologists

VA EBP training completed: Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, CBT-Insomnia

Bruce A. Huyser, Ph.D.

Staff Psychologist - Primary Care Mental Health Integration

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: University of Missouri-Columbia, 1997

E-mail address: Bruce.Huyser@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Behavioral Medicine

Eric Krueger, Ph.D.

Staff Psychologist - Veterans Trauma Recovery Program

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: University of Wyoming, 2008

E-mail address: Eric.Krueger@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: PTSD, Depression, Substance Abuse

VA EBP training completed: Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Motivational Interviewing

Patrick Metoyer, Ph.D.

Graduate Psychologist, PTSD/SUD Specialist

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: Washington State University, 2014

Email address: Patrick.Metoyer2@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: PTSD, SUD, Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy

Prolonged Exposure Therapy: certified provider, Center for the Treatment and Study of Anxiety (CTSA), University of Pennsylvania

Connie Raybuck, Ph.D.

Staff Psychologist – Primary Care Mental Health Integration

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: University of South Carolina, 1990

E-mail address: Connie.Raybuck@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Health Psychology, Couples, Anxiety

Melissa Swanson, Ph.D.

Staff Neuropsychologist

Area of Specialization: Neuropsychology

Degree: Palo Alto University, 2009

E-mail address: Melissa.Swanson@va.gov

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: TBI and Concussion, Neurodegenerative Disorders, Chronic Medical Illness.

Darrelle Volwiler, Ph.D.

Staff Psychologist – Outpatient Mental Health

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology

Degree: Washington State University, 1996

E-mail address: Darrelle.Volwiler@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive Behavioral

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Geropsychology, Health Psychology

VA EBP training completed: Motivational Interviewing

Elizabeth A. Ziegler, Ph.D.

Training Director of Neuropsychology Practicum Program

Director of Neuropsychology Services and Traumatic Brain Injury

Staff Neuropsychologist

Area of Specialization: Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology

Degree: Alliant International University, 2006

E-mail address: Elizabeth.Ziegler@va.gov

Theoretical Orientation: Behavioral, Cognitive Behavioral

Areas of Clinical/Professional Interest: Forensic Neuropsychology, TBI and Concussion, Rehabilitation Psychology, Neurodegenerative Disorders, Chronic Medical Illness, Behavioral Medicine.

Local Information

The Spokane and Walla Walla VA Medical Centers and their associated six Community Based Outpatient Clinics have a shared catchment area of 100,000 square miles that includes urban, rural and highly rural areas of eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, western Montana, and Idaho. More than 60% of the Veterans served at our hospitals reside in rural areas, including our surrounding CBOC communities of Wenatchee, Richland, Yakima, Washington, Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston, Idaho, and LaGrande, Oregon.

Both VAMCs are part of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20, which also includes the Seattle VA and Portland VA Healthcare Systems. Spokane is the metropolitan center of the Inland Northwest region with a population of over 200,000. It is located on the Spokane River and is 110 miles south of the Canadian border, approximately 20 miles from the Washington-Idaho border, and 271 miles east of Seattle. It is identified as a "green" community with easy access to a vast array of outdoor recreation including skiing, bicycling, boating, rafting, fishing, and golfing. The town motto "Near Nature, Near Perfect" speaks to the outdoor focus. Spokane also offers shopping, dining, arts, sports, and theater. For more information see <http://www.visitspokane.com> and <http://www.relocatespokane.com>.

Walla Walla is located near the Blue Mountains in the southeastern region of Washington. It was recently voted the "Friendliest Small Town in America" by USA Today Travel. It is often said that Walla Walla is "A Town So Nice They Named It Twice". It is surrounded by extensive viticulture and agriculture with numerous opportunities for hiking, skiing, bicycling, hot air balloon riding, and golfing. The historic downtown and the surrounding area include dining, shopping and museums. The population of Walla Walla is over 31,000 and it is located approximately 272 miles from Seattle, 242 miles from Portland, and 156 miles from Spokane. For more information see <http://www.wvwchamber.com> and <http://www.wallawalla.org>.

Our internship provides the opportunity to receive high quality training at two VA Medical Centers in a geographic setting that we all believe is breathtaking.

If you have any questions, we encourage you to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.